

REMARKS

The Applicant is canceling Claims 1-11 since these claims were the elected claims and were allowed in the parent application. The remaining claims include Claims 12-30 which are now pending in the current application.

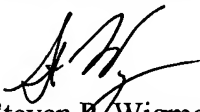
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicants submit herewith Information Disclosure Statements (IDS's) and completed PTO-1449 forms in connection with the parent application. These IDS's list the references cited in the parent case. The Applicants remind the Examiner that copies of these references are not necessary since the present application claims priority Under 35 U.S.C. 120 to the parent case. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-styled divisional patent application, as amended, is in condition for examination and requests such action. If any issues remain that may be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at 404.572.2884.

Respectfully submitted,


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Version to Show Changes Made to Specification

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[PRIORITY CLAIM TO PROVISIONAL AND NON-PROVISIONAL APPLICATIONS]

This application is a divisional of and claims priority to U.S. application No. 10/230,322, filed August 28, 2002, entitled "System and Method for Increasing Upstream Communication Efficiency in an Optical Network," the entire contents of which are incorporated by reference. [The present application is a continuation-in-part of non-provisional patent application entitled "System and Method for Communicating Optical Signals between a Data Service Provider and Subscribers," filed on July 5, 2001 and assigned U.S. Application Serial No. 09/899,410. The present application also claims priority to provisional patent application entitled, "Method for Decreasing the Transition Time of TDMA Systems," filed on August 28, 2001 and assigned U.S. Application Serial No. 60/315,555. The entire contents of both the non-provisional patent application and the provisional patent application mentioned above are hereby incorporated by reference.]